A SERIES OF LETTERS

WHICH

Were interchanged between ſome GOVERNORS of the Two GREAT HOSPITALS of this CITY,

AND

MR. GARDINER, OF RICHMOND,

WHEREIN

Are contained ſundry curious ANECDOTES, ariſing from His GIFT OF TWO FREEHOLD HOUSES to St. THOMAS's, and His TENDER of £.2000 to St. BARTHOLOMEW's, on certain CONDITIONS.

Omne tulit Punctum qui miſcuit utile dulci. HOR.

LONDON PRINTED,

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INTRODUCTION.

THE inimical Reception of my late Aſtronomical Diſcoveries by the Royal Society not abating my Ardour for demonſtrating my grateful Acknowledgments to the great Creator of the Univerſe, in ſelecting me to be the Interpreter of ſuch wonderful Phænomena, I determined to make an Oblation by Way of *Hecatomb*, as was the Practice amongſt the Ancients on like Occaſions, and particularly by the ſage Pythagoras, when he had diſcovered, that, in a right Angle Triangle, the Squares of the Baſe and the Perpendicular, added together, were equal to the Square of the Hypotenuſe.

But as Sacrifices have long ſince been in Diſuſe, I was under the Neceſſity of purſuing my View by Analogy, and accordingly upon Con-

templation it occurred to me, that a Donation to an Hoſpital would be ſufficiently ſimilar.

This *Succedaneum* giving entire Satisfaction, I next conſidered to which of our numerous Hoſpitals the Prize ſhould be allotted. In ſettling this Point the Demur was very ſhort: I had been many Years a Governor of Saint Thomas's, and therefore I readily determined that this Hoſpital ſhould have the Preference.

In Conſequence, on the 9th of April, 1774, I conveyed two Freehold Meſſuages in Leadenhall-Street, N°. 36 and 37, (which were then fully equal in Value to the beſt One Hundred fat Oxen in England) to the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of London, Governors of the Poſſeſſions, Reverſions, and Goods of the Hoſpitals of Edward the Sixth, (late King of England) of Chriſt's, Bridewell, and Saint Thomas the Apoſtle, as my Free-Gift,—for the Uſe and Benefit of the ſaid Hoſpitals.

I now flattered myſelf, that I had fully complied with my original Intention, and that my brother Governors of St. Thomas's would have highly applauded me for opening a new Road to be occupied by future Benefactors.

In this Expectation I extended my Views, and began to think that I might (at the Hazard

of

of another £.2000) conveniently ſhew up the *Managers* of Crane-Court in a droll Light, and accordingly, on the 16th of the enſuing Month, I addreſſed myſelf to John Darker, Eſq; the Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's, making a Tender of £2000 to his Hoſpital, if any Fellow, or Fellows, of the Royal Society, ſhould be able to annull the Four Proofs of the Earth's annual Rotation in Reverſe, given by me in the London Chronicle of the 12th of March 1774, as will more at large appear from a Copy of the ſaid Letter, which will be found in the Sequel.

I was the rather inclined to adopt this Scheme, becauſe, in the Purſuit of it, I well knew that an Opportunity would preſent, for trying whether my brother Governors of Saint Thomas's were kindly affectioned to my Aſtronomical Diſcoveries, which cauſed the Oblation to their Hoſpital: for as I had Four Hundred Enemies to contend with at Crane-Court, it would have been conſoling to me, to have picked up a few Friends amongſt the Governors of Saint Thomas's, and this I had ſurely Reaſon to expect would have been the natural Reſult of ſo ample an Oblation, to the Charity under their own Adminiſtration.

But, alas!—the Sequel will evince, that my Expectations were built on a ſandy Foundation, and that all my Brethren of Saint Thomas's, and alſo the Governors of St. Bartholomew's, moſt eagerly reinforced the Enemy as Auxiliaries, leaving me to contend ſingly againſt a *Phalanx* of Eleven Hundred, *Rank and File!* *

This ſhort Introduction I thought neceſſary, to enable the Reader more readily to inveſtigate the Drift of the enſuing Correſpondence, which contains the Whole of what I mean to communicate on the Subject of my Hecatomb: for all the Facts will be therein ſufficiently aſcertained, and he will then be left at large to draw ſuch Inferences therefrom, as his own Judgment ſhall dictate.

* Explained thus—

In the Crane Court Liſt	—	400
In St. Thomas's Liſt	—	460
In St. Bartholomew's Liſt	—	300
		1160
But as ſome of the Fellows of Crane-Court are Governors of theſe Hoſpitals, and ſome are ſuperannuated, there muſt be deducted from this ſum total about		60
Thus it appears that the Phalanx is		1100 ſtrong.—

I ſhall

I ſhall therefore now proceed to give the Letters, as they were written in Order of Time, beginning at the Period when I made the Tender of £.2000 to the Governors of Saint Bartholomew's, on certain Conditions: becauſe my earlier Correſpondence, with the Treaſurer of St. Thomas's, regarded merely the Conveyance of my two Houſes to ſaid Hoſpital.

No. 1. *To John Darker, Eſq; Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital, and F. R. S.*

SIR,

HAVING aſcertained, to my own entire Satisfaction, that our Earth maintains the Paralleliſm of her Axis in her Orbit, by the Means of a Reverſe Annual Rotation, in Oppoſition to the Vote of Sir Iſaac Newton, and other great Aſtronomers; I thought it my Duty to make an Oblation to ſome pious Uſe, in Token of my Thankfulneſs to the great Author of the Univerſe, for appointing me to be the Proclaimer of ſo wonderful a Phænomenon in our Mundane Syſtem.

In Conſequence, I have conveyed two Houſes, in Leadenhall-Street, to the Governors of Saint Thomas's Hoſpital, which I eſteem to be equal in Value to a *Hecatomb*, viz. £.2000, allowing £.20 for the Rate of each Beaſt.

Now ſince the Royal Society have *kicked againſt the Pricks*, by maintaining a profound Silence, notwithſtanding my repeated Applications to them for Objections, I have thought it prudent to announce to you, (as I have already done to their principal Aſtronomer, the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne) that I am willing to give a ſecond *Hecatomb* to your Hoſpital, if they, or any of them, ſhall be able to annul the Four Proofs of the Earth's Annual Rotation in Reverſe, given by me in the London Chronicle of the 12th of March laſt.

As Mr. Percival Pott, and doubtleſs ſome of your Governors, are Fellows of the Royal Society, you cannot want Advocates to prompt the Society, to embark in ſo good a Cauſe; ſince, by their Succeſs, a Profit of £.2000 will accrue to your Hoſpital.

Pray excuſe this extraordinary Application, as it is merely meant to vindicate the Cauſe of Truth, at the Riſque and Hazard of ſuffering a Mulct from my own private Fortune; and ſo truſting

truſting to this Plea for your Pardon, I ſhall only add that I am,

Richmond, May 16th, 1774. } Sir, Your very humble Servant, W. G.

Here it muſt be noted, that William James, Eſq; F. R. S. and a Governor of St. Bartholomew's, together with Mr. Thomas Wall, Clerk of the ſaid Hoſpital, came down to me on the 11th of the enſuing Month, in Conſequence of the above Tender: but they brought no Letter with them, either from John Darker, Eſq; or from the Houſe Committee, nor were they equipped with a Refutation of my Four Proofs of the Earth's Annual Rotation in Reverſe, from the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne, or from any other Fellow of the Royal Society, and conſequently they returned to London with empty Purſes.

No. 2. *To John Darker, Eſq;*

SIR,

I Greatly applaud the Zeal of your Houſe Committee in attempting to realize my propoſed Benefaction to the Hoſpital; but your Brother

Brother of Crane-Court, Mr. James, has put them in a wrong Train. The ſending down a Governor, accompanied by your Clerk, was not incorrect: but then they ſhould have been firſt equipped with a Refutation of my Aſtronomical Diſſertation from the Royal Society. Without ſuch a Diſpatch, they were as ill qualified to make a Journey to Richmond, as a Ship would be to make a Voyage to Leghorn without a Mediterranean Paſs.

Your Applications therefore ſhould be firſt addreſſed to the *Ephori* of Crane-Court, they are the proper Officers to furniſh you with Clearances, and without them you ſhould not venture to looſe the Fore-Topſail.

I, on my Part, have exerted my beſt Diligences to make you ſucceſsful in your Applications, as muſt have largely appeared to your late Deputation, by my many Letters addreſſed to the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne, which were put into their Hands on Saturday laſt for their Peruſal: but as your Deputies came down without previous Notice, my Papers were not regularly arranged for their Reception; ſo that my laſt Letter to Nevil Maſkelyne, dated the 12th ultimo, was overlooked by me, in which was contained the following material Paragraph.

" In

" In a Letter, ſent off laſt Night to Cam-
" bridge, I gave your Brother Profeſſors Notice,
" that if they could invalidate my Terreſtrial
" Diſcovery, I would chearfully give a ſecond
" Hecatomb to Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital.
" I now make the ſame Propoſal to your good
" Self, and you are welcome to call in the Aſ-
" ſiſtance of your whole Society to effect the
" Mulct."

But my Ardour for the Augmentation of your Hoſpital Fund has not ended here, for I repeated my Solicitations to the Greenwich Aſtronomer, the very Night after the Appearance of your Deputies; their Viſit furniſhed me with a Plea for writing to him, and in my Letter I made ſhift to ſqueeze in the following Paragraph.

" I hope you will now give a ſerious At-
" tention to the proffered Premium, viz. the
" Sum of £. 2000, which will be a noble Be-
" nefaction to the Charity, while at the ſame
" Time, by procuring it, much Honour will
" redound to your learned Society, with the
" Accumulation of many Thanks from the
" numerous Governors of the Hoſpital. The
" Matter lies in a very narrow Compaſs; you

" have

" have only to refute my ſhort Diſſertation, " given in the London Chronicle of the 12th " of March laſt, and the Prize will be won."

If this ſtrenuous Solicitation ſhould not be felt, there ſtill remains one promiſing Effort to be made on your Part, in order to gain the Parſon over to your Intereſt.—Tender him his Tythe!—that is, Promiſe him £. 200 of the Prize-money if he ſhould throw me:—for the remaining £. 1800 will ſtill be a valuable Acquiſition to the Hoſpital.

This being what occurs to communicate at preſent, I ſalute you, and remain

Sir, &c.

Rickmond,
June 13, 1774. W. G.

No. 3. *To John Darker, Eſq;*

SIR,

I Have wrote you two very civil Letters (as Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital) the one dated the 16th of May laſt, and the other the 13th of June: but I never yet received an Anſwer to either of them, which I muſt frankly acknowledge has a little ſurpriſed me.

My

My Wonder is ſtill further augmented, when I happen to contemplate on the promiſing Expedient I conveyed to you in my Second Letter, viz.—" That the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne " ſhould be rewarded with Two Hundred " Pounds, if by his ſucceſsful Endeavours the " Prize of Two Thouſands ſhould become the " Property of your Hoſpital."

But notwithſtanding your Languor in the Purſuit of ſo laudable an Object, yet my Zeal for your Service has not relaxed, and therefore I requeſt you will inform me, how the Tender of the Two Hundred Pounds operated with the Greenwich Profeſſor: for as I do not mean, at ſo early a Period, to cloſe my Correſpondence with him, I ſhould be glad to continue your Coadjutor, if Circumſtances will permit.

Let me then ſpeedily be favoured with a Line, when you may depend on my beſt Diligences to gain over the Profeſſor to your Party.

In the mean Time pray accept the Tender of my hearty Salutes, and be aſſured that I remain, with great Cordiality,

Sir, &c.

Richmond, Aug. 15*th*, 1774.

W. G.

To

No. 4. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

YOUR Favour of the 15th inſtant was ſent me from London laſt Poſt.—I remember receiving one from you laſt May, juſt as I was ſetting out on a Journey for the North, and I deſired Mr. Wall to inquire into the Particulars you mentioned, and to give you an Anſwer. That which you mention in June I believe muſt miſcarry, for I was then on a Journey.—I am ſure your kind Intention to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital requires every Return of Civility in my Power.

I wiſh I was able to judge of the Matter in diſpute between you and Mr. Maſkelyne, but I am quite ignorant of the Science of Aſtronomy, and have no manner of Acquaintance with Mr. Maſkelyne: but Mr. Wall, who is Clerk to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital, and who will do himſelf the Pleaſure of delivering this to you, will endeavour to get you all the Satisfaction in his Power, on your informing him of the Method he muſt take for that Purpoſe.

Gayton, Northamptonſhire,
Aug. 18th, 1774.

I am, Sir, &c.
Signed John Darker.

To

No. 5. *To John Darker, Eſq;*

SIR,

THE Clerk of your Hoſpital, Mr. Thomas Wall, delivered to me yeſterday your Favour, of the 18th ultimo, from Gayton. Why it was detained a Month, I ſuppoſe will be ſatisfactorily accounted for to you by Mr. Wall.

In the mean Time, pray obſerve that there is no Diſpute exiſting between me, and Mr. Nevil Maſkelyne; for he never wrote me a Letter, and in my firſt Letter to your good Self, of the 16th of May, it is announced that the Prize ſhall be given to your Hoſpital, if any one, or more Members, of the Royal Society, ſhall be able to annul the Four Proofs given by me of the Earth's Annual Rotation: but having addreſſed myſelf to Mr. Nevil Maſkelyne, as the *Magnus Apollo* in Aſtronomy, to him in particular I recommended the Tender of £. 200 in my ſubſequent Letters, on Condition of his throwing me.

As you are doubtful in Regard to having ſeen my ſecond Letter of the 13th of June, (although I never knew a Letter of mine to have miſcarried between this Place and London) I have

have ſent you a Copy of the ſame, that you may fully comprehend my ſteady Ingenuity in this conditional Donation from firſt to laſt.

In Concluſion, I cannot ſubmit to alter my Conditions, ſo hoping you will forthwith uſe all the Intereſt you can procure, for gaining over to your Cauſe the *Ephori* of Crane-Court, I ſhall only add the Tender of my Salutes, and declare my ſelf anew,

Richmond, Sept. the 16th, 1774. Sir, &c,

W. G.

No. 6. *To William Bowden, Eſq; Treaſurer of St. Thomas's Hoſpital.*

SIR,

I Was duly favoured with yours of the 6th ultimo by Mr. Knox, together with the Blank Petitions, &c. for which you have my beſt Thanks. I am glad to learn that Suſan Marſh proved a proper Object for the Relief of your Hoſpital.

The preſent is to requeſt you to make Enquiry, at the Anniverſary Meeting on Wedneſday next, where you will doubtleſs ſee Mr. John Darker, or ſome of the *Managers* of St. Bartholomew's, —whether their Houſe-Committee

mittee is buſy in procuring the neceſſary Diſpatches for obtaining my Second *Hecatomb*. If you ſhould not incline to put the Queſtion yourſelf, I hope you will be able to find a Brother Governor in your *Suite*, who will accept of the Commiſſion.

To augment your Mirth further, Enquiry may be made,—how the firſt Deputation came to be ſent to me without the Mediterranean Paſs?

I am ever with Eſteem,
Sir, &c.
W. G.

Richmond, Sept. 19th, 1774.

No. 7. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Am favoured with yours of the 16th inſtant, with a Copy of a former Letter of the 13th of June. I have directed Mr. Wall to take the Inſtructions of the Houſe-Committee how he is to proceed, in order to give you every Satisfaction in the Power of the Hoſpital.

When I come to Town I ſhall attend the Society, and ſpeak to ſuch Gentlemen of that Body as are of my Acquaintance, and endeavour

to elucidate the Matter in Diſpute as far as lies in the Compaſs of the Ability, of

Sir, &c.

Gayton, Sept. 19th, 1774. Signed John Darker.

No. 8. *To John Darker, Eſq;*

SIR,

I Was duly favoured with yours of the 19th of September, from Gayton, and as this will doubtleſs find you returned to St. Bartholomew's, I hope you will not think me premature in renewing my Addreſſes.

In your Letter, above quoted, you ſay—— "that you had directed Mr. Wall to take the "Inſtructions of the Houſe-Committee, to give "me every Satisfaction in the Power of the "Hoſpital." So I ſuppoſe that, in Conſequence, he will have attended on the many Governors, (contained in a Liſt conveyed to you in my laſt of the 16th of September) who happen to be Fellows of the Royal Society, in order to explain to them, with how great Facility they may procure £. 2000 for the Benefit of your Hoſpital: but of his Succeſs I am not yet adviſed.

Your

Your ſaid Letter further declares,—" that " upon your Return to Town you would at- " tend the Society, and ſpeak to ſuch Gentle- " men of that Body as are of your Acquaint- " ance, and endeavour to elucidate the Mat- " ter in Diſpute, as far as you ſhould be able."

To anſwer in Point to this Paragraph is the chief Object of my preſent Addreſs, but I am really puzzled how to ſet about it: becauſe in the Letter you was anſwering to, it is denied that there is any *Diſpute* exiſting between me, and the Royal Society, and the Part they were to take towards obtaining the £. 2000, was clearly aſcertained in my Firſt Letter of the 16th of May; wherein I declare,—" that I am willing to give a Second *He-* " *catomb* to your Hoſpital, if they [the Fellows " of the Royal Society] or any of them, ſhall be " able to annul the Four Proofs of the Earth's " Annual Rotation, given by me in the Lon- " don Chronicle of the 12th of March laſt."

I hope therefore you will not any longer think, that I have called upon you to ſettle any *Diſpute* between me and the Royal Society, or to aſk any Favour on my Account; for I mean only, that they ſhould anſwer with a View to benefit your Hoſpital, as ſurely they ought rea-

dily to do, as thereby they would gain the Applauſe of all good Men in general, and alſo of your numerous Governors in particular. At the ſame time it is worthy Notice, that the Alternative has a malign Aſpect: for if the Society ſhould continue on the Reſerve, then the Diſcerning will ſay, that they cannot anſwer, and this diſgraceful Concluſion will enſue, viz. that they have amuſed themſelves a whole Twelvemonth together with Trifles, and at laſt have been obliged to give Sir Godfrey Copley's Medal for no better a Performance than the Diſſection of a *Cramp-fiſh*; while they have rejected even the reading of a Diſcovery in Science, which, *if true*, muſt be deemed ſuperior to *any* other made in the preſent Century.

This being a correct State of the Caſe, I hope you will now perceive, that it behoves you both as the Treaſurer of Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital, as well as a Fellow of the Royal Society, to exert your beſt Diligences in ſoliciting the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne to plead: for on your Succeſs therein depends the Profit of the Hoſpital, as likewiſe the Luſtre of the Society; and permit me to call to your Attention the Deputation ſent down

down to me by your Houſe Committee, without the neceſſary Diſpatches from Crane-Court, and this Anecdote will ſurely prove a cogent Motive alſo, to make you alert in the preſent Buſineſs: for if ſuch Diſpatches ſhould not be finally obtained, then the premature Deputation will become more an Object of Diſguſt, to all that ſhall learn of it.

I heartily congratulate you on being returned a ſecond Time for the Town of Leiceſter, not doubting but that your Conduct in Parliament will do Credit to the Choice of your Electors, and this, with the Tender of my beſt Salutes, concludes me

Sir, &c. W. G.

P. S. I have ſomething new to preſent to the Public at large, when your *Managers* at Crane-Court ſhall have determined whether to plead or not, for the conditional Tender of £.2000 to Saint Bartholomew's.

Richmond, December 4, 1774.

No. 9. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Am favoured with yours of the 4th Inſtant, which I ſhall lay before a Committee of Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital on Friday. I am but juſt come to Town, and am full of Buſineſs, but will take the firſt Opportunity of conſulting my Friends of the Royal Society, on the important Subject you mention. I am much obliged to you for your kind Congratulations on my Election for Leiceſter, and am

London, December 6th, 1774.

Sir, &c.
Signed John Darker.

No. 10. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

THIS Day being the firſt Court after the Vacation, and ſince the Treaſurer came to Town, all your Letters were read, and I am deſired to inform you a Committee of the Governors is appointed to wait upon Mr. Maſkelyne, relative to the Buſineſs you require, whoſe Anſwer ſhall be communicated to you as ſoon after

after the Committee have waited on him as poſſible. I have the Honour to ſubſcribe myſelf.

St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital, December 9th, 1774.

Sir, Your
Moſt *faithful* humble Servant,
Signed Thomas Wall.

No. 11. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Wrote to you the 29th September, ſince then nothing occurred on the Subject of that Letter till now. Yeſterday there was a Meeting of the Governors of Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital, when a Committee was appointed to take your Letter into Conſideration, and to apply to the Aſtronomer Royal, with regard to the Contents of it. The Reſult of their Proceedings will be communicated to you in Courſe. In the mean Time I thought it proper to acquaint you with the Steps that were taking.

St. Thomas's Hoſpital, December the 10th, 1774.

I am very reſpectfully,
Sir, &c.
Signed William Bowden.

No. 12. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Received in Courſe your Favour of the 19th Inſtant, and duly regard its Contents. I attended at Chriſt's Hoſpital on St. Thomas's Day, but did not meet Mr. Darker, he being in Leiceſterſhire. Since then I have communicated to the Committee at Saint Bartholemew's Hoſpital, appointed to conſider the Matter you recommended to that Society, what you mention in your Letter relating thereto. They met laſt Friday, but as the Treaſurer was out of Town, and few Gentlemen preſent, the ſame was poſtponed till next Committee, which will be ſoon. The Aſtronomer Royal went ſome Time ago to Scotland, and is not yet returned, which is another Reaſon for delaying this Buſineſs.

Whenever any Thing occurs worth communicating to you, you ſhall be adviſed thereof, being very deſirous of every Opportunity to approve myſelf,

St. Thomas's Hoſpital, September 29, 1774. } Sir, &c.
Signed William Bowden.

N. B. This Letter is put out of Place, in Order to ſtand in View of its Anſwer.

To

No. 13. *To William Bowden, Esq.*

SIR,

I Am now Debtor to two of your Favours, the one of 29th September, and the other of the 10th ultimo.

In the First you advise, that a Committee was appointed at Saint Bartholomew's, to consider of my Tender to that Hospital, and in the Last, that a Deputation out of the said Committee was nominated to attend on the Astronomer Royal, in Order to know whether he will plead to my Terrestrial Dissertation or not.

The Day before your last came to Hand, I had received Notice from Mr. Thomas Wall, that the Deputation to the Astronomer Royal was appointed, and he promised to make known to me the Result in due Season. Three Weeks are since elapsed, but the wished for Intelligence is not yet arrived!

Be pleased therefore to inform me how much longer Time I ought in Decency to wait, before addressing myself anew to Mr. John Darker, who has already received five Letters from me, some of which will probably be read with great Glee, by Men of Science yet unborn.

Perhaps

Perhaps you will be ſurpriſed when I tell you, that I have learnt ſomething more intereſting by what you have omitted to ſay, than by what you have really communicated: but the Fact is certainly ſo, and is to be thus eaſily explained. You are ſilent as to the Affair of the *Mediterranean Paſs*, mentioned in the Concluſion of my laſt. By this I collect, that you do not approve of the premature Deputation ſent hither from Saint Bartholomew's, any more than myſelf; and if Nevil Maſkelyne ſhould not at laſt plead for the Prize, I think that Mr. Darker, and his Houſe-Committee will figure very low indeed.

I ſhall wait patiently the Event of Things, as you ſhall direct, but pleaſe to obſerve that a Third very curious Diſcovery lies ready for Communication to the Public, as ſoon as the Aſtronomer Royal ſhall have determined whether to plead, or not to plead; and that this Notice has been given in my laſt Letter addreſſed to Mr. Darker.

If Mr. John Belchier, our late Surgeon at St. Thomas's, ſhould fall in your Way, pray preſent my beſt Compliments to him, and inform him, that the moſt ſincere Token of my Regard for him I can at preſent exhibit, is to recommend

a Thurſday's

a Thurſday's Viſit to Crane-Court, in Order to adviſe his old Friends there not *to kick any longer againſt the Pricks:* for that a Third Correction of Sir Iſaac Newton, Doctor Gregory, and Doctor Keill, is now ready for the Preſs.

I wiſh you a happy New Year, and remain with eſteem,

Richmond, Jan. 2, 1775. } Sir, &c. W. G.

No. 14. *To William Bowden, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Wrote you a long Letter on the ſecond Inſtant, ſerving principally to notify my Surpriſe at not hearing from Mr. Darker, or his Clerk, in Regard to the Reſult of a propoſed Viſit to Greenwich.

The preſent is deſigned purely to adviſe, that I ſtill continue uninformed about this Matter, which gives me the greater Concern, becauſe it is now become patent, that your Brother Treaſurer, or his Colleagues, have been equally wanting in Sincerity to your Goodſelf, as to me.

I am

I am therefore heartily ſorry that I ever ſolicited you to aſk them any Queſtions, and beg that you will not permit the Diſappointment to give you any Uneaſineſs: for be aſſured that I ſhall ſucceed in my Views, in Oppoſition to all the many ſiniſter Practices of my Adverſaries; and if you will only tell me when I ſhall have waited long enough (in your Opinion) for Mr. Darker's Report, I will aſk nothing further of you in regard to Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital.

Pray then write me quickly, that I may at length (after full eight Months Correſpondence) take a final Leave of Mr. Darker, and preſent my Third Aſtronomical Diſcovery to the Public; on Aſſurance that, by ſo doing, you will much oblige,

Richmond, Jan. 24, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 15. *To John Darker, Eſq.*

SIR,

YOUR Favour of the 6th of December came duly to Hand, and on the 10th ditto I was adviſed by Mr. Thomas Wall, that a Deputa-

a Deputation of Governors was appointed to wait on the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne, to know his Pleaſure in Regard to my conditional Tender of £.2000 to your Hoſpital.

Now as full ſeven Weeks are ſince elapſed, and I have not yet been informed of the Reſult, I fear that the Embaſſy has proved abortive: but if ſuch is the Caſe, pray adviſe thereof, that my Third Aſtronomical Diſcovery may not be any longer with-held from the Public; for I hinted in a Poſtſcript to my laſt, dated the 4th of December, that I ſhould not ſend my Diſſertation to Preſs, until the Reſult of your Application to the Greenwich Profeſſor ſhould have been made known to me.

That you ſhould have ſent down a Deputation to me, previous to any Application made to the Profeſſor, muſt ſurely ere this have appeared to you in an unfavourable Light: becauſe, by aſking the Money before my Proofs of the World's Annual Rotation were annulled, you in Effect have deſired me to counteract my own Views; for how could the Truth have been evinced, if I ſhould have given the Money, and Nevil Maſkelyne ſhould never have pleaded?

I hope

I hope therefore you will applaud my Caution in not parting with the Money, becauſe the Truth is thereby become ſufficiently conſpicuous: for no Man living can doubt, but that the Profeſſor would be very alert in adding my £.2000 to the Hoſpital Fund, if he were able ſo to do.

I ſhall conclude with reminding you, that I have uſed no Guile or Deceit to induce your preſent Embarraſſment. I opened myſelf to you with Ingenuity and Preciſion, and if you have not read with Attention, that Neglect cannot in Reaſon be imputed to,

Richmond, Jan. 30, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 16. *To William Bowden, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Have lately wrote you two Letters, one of the 2nd, the other of the 24th Inſtant, to which I am without Reply, and from this Circumſtance I preſume that your Privy-Counſellors have ſo embarraſſed you with their variegated Advices, that you are at a Loſs how to conduct yourſelf.

To

To extricate you therefore out of this perplexed Situation, I have determined to addreſs Mr. Darker, without waiting any longer for your Diſpatches; and accordingly I wrote him a very intereſting Letter laſt Night, wherein it is plainly proved that the Tender of the £.2000 to Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital, has tripped up the Heels of the Greenwich Profeſſor, and of all the other Aſtronomers of Crane-Court.

This being the real Truth, pray do not imagine that I can be put out of Humour, and therefore I can readily pardon your Goodſelf, and your Privy-Counſellors, for warping a little in Favour of your *old* Allies at Saint Bartholomew's: but when you ſhall have diſcovered that no Number of *Pumps* will free their *Bark*, and that conſequently they muſt go to the *Bottom*, I hope you will then begin to think that a little Countenance ſhould be given to your *new* Ally, who has certainly ſome ſmall Portion of Benevolence due to him from the Public *in general*, in Attention to his late *important* Diſcoveries regarding our *Mundane Syſtem*; and from *you* the Governors of St. Thomas's *in particular*, as he has offered up his *Hecatomb*, for the Principal of theſe Diſcoveries, at your *Shrine*.

In

In Concluſion, be pleaſed to aſſure your Council, that I am ſo heartily joyous on Account of my late Aſtronomical Diſcoveries, that I will not be angry with them,—the Royal Society—the Governors of St. Bartholomew's,—or with any other Governors whatever; and I ſtill flatter myſelf, that, notwithſtanding your own preſent Attachment to Mr. Darker, and his Houſe-Committee, you will at ſome future Day be as greatly elated at my Victory over ſuch numerous Hoſts, as is now, Sir,

Richmond, Jan. 31, 1775. } Your much devoted Servant, W. G.

No. 17. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

IN my laſt I informed you, that a Committee was appointed to wait on the Rev. Mr. Neville Maſkelyne, upon the Buſineſs you deſired him to undertake; and they knowing the perſonal Acquaintance the Treaſurer had with Mr. Neville Maſkelyne deſired he would undertake to ſpeak to him on the Subject, which he endeavoured to do, but Mr. Maſkelyne abſolutely declined it, by ſaying it was impoſſible for

for him, to bring himſelf to concur with you in Sentiments upon a Subject, ſo contrary to his own Conviction: this being all that the Governors of this Hoſpital can do in this Buſineſs, they deſired me to acquaint you with Mr. Maſkelyne's Reſolution, and to return you their Thanks, for your kind Intentions reſpecting this Hoſpital, and to beg the Favour of knowing from you, whether you would be pleaſed to accept of a Staff from this Hoſpital, as a Mark of their Eſteem and Gratitude for your intended Favor; which, if you do, they will order one to to be ſent to you immediately. I have the Honor to be, Sir,

St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital, 30th Jan. 1775. } Your moſt *faithful*, &c.
Signed Tho. Wall, Clerk.

N. B. This Letter was wrote on the 31ſt of January, as appeared by the Poſt-Mark on the outſide, and ſo was not received by me until February the 1ſt. The Motive for antedating this Letter will appear in the Sequel.

No. 18. *To William Bowden, Eſq.*

SIR,

MY laſt was of the 31ſt of January, in which I gave you to underſtand, that your Friends at St. Bartholomew's were in a

 ſinking

ſinking State. I have now to inform you, that their Bark has made a *Hole* in the Sea, and conſequently they are all gone to the *Bottom*. The Two Thouſand Pound *Shot* did their Buſineſs, as it has alſo done for the Fellows of the Royal Society, who have pervaded the Deep along with the Houſe-Committee of St. Bartholomew's.

Mr. Darker, finding that he could not parry the *Shot*, put my intereſting Letter into the Hands of Mr. Thomas Wall, hoping that he would be better able to anſwer it than himſelf: but the Attorney found the Matter of my Letter too *hard* for his *Tools*, ſo he has made a miſerable Reply, and, among other Things, he ſays, that the appointed Committee never waited on the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne, and while he gives up all Pretenſions to the Prize of £.2000, he ſtill ſeems willing to hope that I ſhall not gain the *Bays*, although the Loſs of the £.2000, to St. Bartholomew's moſt ſurely conveys *them* to me.

As I now want no Sort of Aſſiſtance, either from your Goodſelf, or from your Privy-Counſellors, I hope you will all become calm, and bleſs your kind Stars, that a Brother Governor of St. Thomas's ſhould have given the Firſt true

Solution,

Solution, of one of the moſt wonderful Phænomena attending our Mundane Syſtem: but pray advert that he has declared it to have been done, *favente Deo.*

Therefore give the *Glory* to God, and only your *Goodwill* to,

Richmond, Feb. 2, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 19. *To John Darker, Eſq.*

SIR,

MY laſt was of the 30th of January, which by a Letter received ſince from your Secretary, Mr. Thomas Wall, of the ſame Date, (but which ſhould have been dated the 31ſt,) I find has puzzled you not a little, and that therefore you was willing to try his Abilities, in an Attempt to relieve you from ſo diſagreeable a Situation. Permit me then to examine how well this Eagle-Eyed Attorney has acquitted himſelf in the arduous Taſk.

I muſt firſt obſerve then, that, without making any Apology for my being held ſo long in Suſpenſe, he bluntly declares, that the Committee, appointed to wait on the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne, had thought proper to decline the Charge.

Then follows the Reaſon, elegantly hung on by the Conjunction *and*, viz.—" *and* they knowing the perſonal Acquaintance the Treaſurer had with Mr. Nevil Maſkelyne, &c."—Wonderful Sagacity in the Delegates truly! as is clearly to be evinced by a Reference to your firſt Letter of the 18th of Auguſt, 1774, addreſſed to me from Gayton, wherein you have declared, " that you have no Manner of Acquaintance with Mr. Maſkelyne," and therefore it is certain, that theſe Delegates know better who you are acquainted with, than you do yourſelf.

Laſtly, permit me to examine how judiciouſly Mr. Wall reports the Execution of the Commiſſion by your Goodſelf. Why he ſays, you endeavoured to ſpeak, " but that Mr. Nevil Maſkelyne abſolutely declined it," meaning, I ſuppoſe, that he prevented you from ſpeaking, by thruſting his Handkerchief into your Mouth, or by ſome ſuch ſimilar *Manœuvre*.

That this Suſpicion is taken upon good Grounds will appear by the Words immediately following, for Mr. Wall goes on, and ſays, " that it is impoſſible for him [Mr. Maſkelyne] to bring himſelf to concur with you [Mr. Gardiner]

diner] in Sentiments, upon a Subject ſo contrary to his own Conviction.

Here it is conſpicuous, that an Anſwer was given before any Queſtion was put, and ſurely this muſt have aroſe from your Mouth having been ſtopped up in ſome Sort or other; and therefore it will not now be improper to examine what the Queſtion ought to have been, that we may afterwards be able to judge, whether the above Anſwer is any Ways in Point.

In my firſt Letter of the 16th of May, the Conditions for gaining the £.2000 are thus:— "If they, [the Fellows of Crane-Court] or any "of them, ſhall be able to annul the Four "Proofs of the Earth's Annual Rotation, given "by me, &c." The Queſtion then ſhould have been, whether Nevil Maſkelyne would attempt this arduous Taſk, or not? But to this Queſtion the above Anſwer, given by Mr. Wall, will not apply, and as to Nevil Maſkelyne's declaring that he differed with me in Sentiments, it was the very Thing to be wiſhed for by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's; and therefore upon the Strength of that Declaration, you ſhould have tied him down to your Service.

I flatter myſelf that you will now begin to perceive, how lamely your Secretary has acquit-

ted himſelf, in anſwering to my Letter of Enquiry; ſo I hope you will readily attempt to mend the Bill with your own Pen, in a Manner becoming a Fellow of Crane-Court,—a Counſellor of the Antiquarian Society,—and a Member of the Britiſh Senate, to the End that Poſterity may not weep and lament the inimical Treatment of my Contemporaries, when it was my happy Lot to correct Three Capital Errors of the greateſt Men in Science that had ever exiſted, in Regard to their Solutions of the *Phænomena* of our *Mundane Syſtem*.

In that Expectation I ſubſcribe myſelf anew,

Sir, &c. W. G.

P. S. Pray note that Doctor Pringle, in his late Diſcourſe on the Cramp-Fiſh, ſays thus: "True Lovers of Science are *emulous*, not *envious* of the Reputation of their Neighbours."

It was certainly well judged of you not to *free* Mr. Wall's laſt Letter to me: but then you ſhould have reflected, that, as it did not get to Lombard-Street, before the 31ſt ultimo, I could not poſſibly receive it before the 1ſt Inſtant. A Copy of this Letter goes herewith, in Order to evince that I have given it fair Play.

Richmond, Feb. 5th, 1775.

To

No. 20. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

YOUR Favour of the 5th Inſtant I duly received, as I did your former of the 30th ultimo. I did not trouble you with an Anſwer to it, as I apprehended the Letter Mr. Wall wrote to you by Order of the Committee, would have given you all the Satisfaction that was in their Power. When I wrote to you from Gayton, I was not perſonally acquainted with Mr. Maskelyne, that I think your jocular Remarks both on that Head, and on my Connections with the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, might conſiſtent with good Manners, full as well have been omitted. I ſhall no further enlarge on the Contents of your Letters, but as our Correſpondence has been unſatisfactory on both Sides, I deſire to decline it intirely for the future, who am,

London, Feb. 7, 1775. } Sir, &c.
Signed John Darker.

No. 21. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Have before me your ſeveral Favours of the 2d, 24th, and 31ſt of laſt Month, and 2d Inſtant; and have obſerved their Contents with great Attention. I imagined that you only meant that I ſhould acquaint you of any Matter, that ſhould come to my Knowledge reſpecting your Propoſition to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital; and as I was informed that a Letter was deſigned to be wrote to you by the Committee of that Hoſpital (which I find you have received) I thought it needleſs to give you the Trouble of any of mine relating thereto. I have no particular Attachment to thoſe Gentlemen, nor have been engaged in any Converſation with them on the Merits of your Affair before them, as I acknowledge myſelf not equal to the Subject.

I heartily wiſh you may enjoy much Pleaſure in your uſeful Diſcoveries, and I ſhall always think myſelf happy in executing any of your Commands to your Satisfaction, being with the greateſt Regard,

St. Thomas's Hoſpital, 8th Feb. 1775.

Sir, &c.
Signed William Bowden.

To

No. 22. *To John Darker, Esq;*

SIR,

I Am exceeding ſorry to find by yours of the 7th Inſtant, that my Letters of the 30th ultimo, and the 5th Inſtant, have made you very angry: for this is not only a ſure Token of your being in the Wrong, but alſo that you do not repent of your Miſdoings.

Your Letter, now before me, does not invalidate any Thing that I have ſaid, and ſurely to give you your ſuperior Diſtinctions, when I requeſted you to ſpeak to a Point of Science, could be no Breach of Good-Manners.

But pray obſerve, while you are criminating me, how culpable you have been yourſelf. Why, you very indecently put my firſt Letter into the Hands of your Houſe-Committee, and without giving any Anſwer to it, you permitted them to ſend down a Deputation to me, to ask for my £.2000, without any previous Notice, and without their being equipped with any Voucher, on which to found the Claim; and now, after holding me in Suſpence full Eight Months, you very gravely tell me, that you think I ought to be ſatisfied with a nonſenſical

Letter

Letter from your Clerk, as an Anſwer to one of the beſt wrote Letters you ever probably received; and which you found ſo cogent in its Arguments, that you permitted the Clerk to antedate his Letter, that mine might appear not to have been received. At the ſame Time pleaſe to obſerve, that your pretending to transfer me to your Committee, as if I had been £.100 Bank-Stock, was quite ungenteel, and is a Liberty I ſhould not permit the firſt Duke in the Land to take with me; and accordingly I never addreſſed any Letter either to them, or to their Clerk.

As to the Diligences your Houſe-Committee may have uſed towards gaining over Nevil Maſkelyne to your Intereſt, that is a Point to be ſettled between you and them; but when they had promiſed ſolemnly, under their Secretary's Firm, that they would viſit him, I think you ſhould have enjoined Compliance: for it does not appear, by your Letter now before me, that you ever had any Conference with Nevil Maſkelyne yourſelf, and I have ſufficiently proved before, that it cannot poſſibly be underſtood to have happened by the Contents of your Clerk's unconnected Letter of the $\frac{30}{31}$ January laſt.

That

That my Correſpondence ſhould have proved unſatisfactory to you is my Misfortune, not my Fault. I have bid largely for your Favor, by the Tender of £2000 to your Hoſpital, on Conditions which you have permitted your Clerk to inſinuate may ſtill be complied with, in Nevil Maskelyne's Opinion, and I have furniſhed you with one of the beſt Letters I ever wrote, under Date of the 30th ultimo, which if you can invalidate by fair Argument, I will allow you to be my Maſter: but if you cannot, then I ſhall have carried the Bays beyond the Diviſion of a Doubt, and you will be allowed no Superiority over,

Richmond, Feb. 9, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 23. *To William Bowden, Eſq.*

SIR,

YOUR Favour of the 8th Inſtant has been duly preſented to me, and I have only to adviſe in Anſwer, that, contrary to your Expectation, your Friends at St. Bartholomew's are now deeper *in the Suds* than ever, and that the Tender

Tender of the £.2000 retains its coercive Power in full Vigour.—Poor Crane-Court!

I am heartily grieved that you ſhould have acted inimically to me under ſuch forbidding Circumſtances. See my Letter of the 31ſt ultimo.

" Repent therefore!—and be converted!—that your Sins may be blotted out."

That ſuch may be the Event, will be the daily Prayer of,

Richmond, Feb. 10, 1775. } Sir,

W. G.

No. 24. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Am exceeding ſorry to commence a Correſpondence with you on a diſagreeable Subject: but as the late *Hecatomb*, offered up by me at the *Shrine* of your Hoſpital, will ſurely occupy a Page in the future Hiſtory of Science; ſo I have thought it a Duty incumbent on me to uſe my beſt Diligences, that this curious Anecdote may be handed down to Poſterity with Truth and Preciſion, and I flatter myſelf that you will approve

approve of my calling upon you for your Aſſiſtance, in the Purſuit of ſo laudable an Attempt.

A Year is not yet elapſed, ſince I conveyed Two Houſes in Leadenhall-Street, ſet at £.104 per Annum, to your Goodſelf, Joſeph Naſh, Eſq. and Mr. George Brough, for the Uſe and Benefit of St. Thomas's Hoſpital, under the Motto, *Favente Deo, metam contigi.*

To evince that *Favor* to the Governors of St. Thomas's in particular, as well as to the Public in general, I afterwards tendered £.2000 to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's, for the Benefit of their Hoſpital, if they would procure from the Royal Society a Refutation of the Four Proofs, I had given (in the London Chronicle of the 12th March laſt) of the Earth's Annual Rotation.

Mr. Darker, the Treaſurer, and his Houſe-Committee, finding they could not get the Money *with* a Certificate, were ſo imprudent as to ſend down a Deputation to me, in Order to try what might be done *without* a Certificate: but not ſucceeding in this Effort to their Wiſhes, they pretended afterwards that they would apply to the Aſtronomer Royal for a Certificate, and

and as in this Diligence they were very tardy, I unfortunately (not knowing at that Time the Connections ſubſiſting between the two Charities) requeſted our Treaſurer, Mr. William Bowden, to give the Bartholomeans a Fillip, at the Annual Meeting of Hoſpital Governors at Chriſt-Church.

Our Treaſurer ſeemed highly pleaſed with the Charge, pretended to be much my Friend, and when he thought that the Bartholomeans had baffled me, he wrote a taunting Letter to me, wherein he quoted the Dates of four Letters I had addreſſed to him, without taking Notice of a ſingle Paragraph of their Contents; and in attempting to apologize for not replying to them in due Courſe, he ſwerved much from the Truth.

The Temptation to our Treaſurer's Derelict-tion was as follows: Mr. Darker at that Criſis ſtood much in need of ſome Aſſiſtance. He had made his Clerk write a Letter on one Day, and date it of another, and the Style of his Letter was ſo unconnected, as no certain Interpretation could be given to it. I have therefore ſent herewith a Copy of it, as alſo a Copy of my Letter to Mr. Darker, which cauſed it to be

antedated,

antedated, and both theſe Copies I requeſt may be depoſited with the Archives of St. Thomas's Hoſpital, that Poſterity may be ſurely informed, that the Great Creator of the Univerſe not only enabled me to diſcover the Earth's Annual Rotation, but that he alſo gave me Power to eſtabliſh this wonderful Truth, againſt the united Reſiſtance of 400 Fellows of Crane-Court, and 300 Governors of St. Bartholomew's, *plus* the Treaſurer of St. Thomas's; and I think that you will the rather accede to this Requeſt, as theſe Vouchers, being found at St. Thomas's, will conſpicuouſly teſtify that I had *ſome* Friends amongſt the Governors, after I had ſo liberally augmented their Hoſpital Revenue, although Mr. *Treaſurer* was not *one* of the Number.

Thus I have given you a ſhort Detail of my Hoſpital Adventures, and if you ſhould incline to know more, I will readily add to it all the further Information you ſhall pleaſe to deſire; and if when you ſhall write, you will be ſo indulging as to ſend me a Liſt of the Names of your preſent Houſe-Committee, at St. Thomas's, you will much oblige,

Sir, &c.

Richmond, Feb. 21, 1775.

W. G.

To

No. 25. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

YOUR Favour of 21ſt Inſtant came to Hand in due Courſe, but my many Avocations prevented my anſwering it ſooner. I am ſure the Treaſurer, and Governors of St. Thomas's Hoſpital, entertain a grateful Senſe of your Generoſity in the noble Benefaction you have been pleaſed to beſtow towards the Support of that Charity, and will be well pleaſed to do every Thing in their Power to perpetuate the Remembrance of it. I will undertake that the Copy's intruſted to my Care ſhall be preſerved with the Title Deeds of the Eſtate, but I ſubmit it to you whether a Copy of your original Offer to St. Bartholomew's to be depoſited with the above, will not render the whole Tranſaction more intelligible to Poſterity, as I do not underſtand that your Gift to St. Thomas's was attended with any Condition, nor is there the leaſt Connection between the two Hoſpitals, although the Treaſurers and many of the Governors are acquainted with each other.

I do not pretend to be a Man of Science, therefore cannot judge of your Propoſal to St.

Bartholomew's,

Bartholomew's, but did not you require of them an Impoſſibility when you deſired them to procure from the Royal Society a Refutation of the four Proofs you had given of the Earth's Annual Rotation? I hope you will excuſe this Remark as you do not mention the only Alternative, of the Society being convinced of the Fact, and conſequently acknowledging the Diſcovery, and even this would have been a hard Condition, for a Body of Profeſſors intrenched up to the Chin in eſtabliſhed Prejudices are like a Neſt of young Owls, when Light firſt breaks in upon them it always ſets them a Screaming.

Incloſed is a Liſt of our preſent Houſe-Committee, I am,

South-wark, Feb. 28, 1775. } Sir &c.
Signed Nathaniel Polhill.

P. S. The Committee are choſen in Auguſt, which is the Reaſon of the Liſt being dated, 1774.

No. 26. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Have been duly preſented with your Favor of the 28th ultimo, which has by no Means adminiſtered that Conſolation I expected from you. You have not offered a ſingle Plea to in-

validate my Charge againſt Mr. Treaſurer, and therefore I humbly conceive that he ſhould not have been enumerated with other Governors, from whoſe kind Aſſiſtance I ſtill may hope to perpetuate the Remembrance of my *Motive* for making ſo handſome a Donation to your Hoſpital.—I call it my *Motive*, becauſe the *bare* Remembrance of the *Donation* is ſufficiently recorded already, by the Entry in your Minute Book, of the 13th July laſt, and alſo by the Golden Letters in your Court-Room.

This being the Caſe, your Propoſal of thruſting the two Copies, ſent you on the 21ſt ultimo, along with the Copy of my firſt Letter addreſſed to Mr. Darker, into the Bag of Title-Deeds, will by no Means anſwer my Purpoſe: for who will ever look into a Bag of muſty Parchments, to find the Explanation of a *Motto* recorded in your *Minute Book?*

I readily acknowledge that the Donation was made without any Conditions, but it was requeſted that a Latin Motto might accompany it, which you have recorded, and it is only to explain *that* Motto to Poſterity, that I aſk the friendly Aſſiſtance of my Brother Governors: but I would by no Means impoſe new Conditions in the Application of my Gift.

As to the Diligences neceſſary for this Explanation, I freely exonerated my Brother Gover-

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nors of the ſame, by riſquing £.2000 to be paid to St. Bartholomew's, if the Governors of that Hoſpital ſhould have proved, that I had erred in aſſuming the ſaid *Motto*.

But I have collateral Proofs to produce, that my Donation to your Hoſpital was meant as an Indication of my grateful Senſe of the Divine Favor, in permitting me to be the Proclaimer of ſo wonderful a Phænomenon. The Rev. Thomas Hornſby, Profeſſor of Aſtronomy at Oxford, was adviſed on the 20th April laſt, that ſuch was my Meaning. Mr. Henry Newcome, of Hackney, the Son of my Latin Maſter, was ſo adviſed on the 2d May laſt. The Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne on the 3d, and the Profeſſors of Cambridge on the 11th ditto, &c. &c. and therefore there can be no doubt but that my *Motto* was meant to indicate my *Motive* to the Donation, and no Motive whatever can be collected from my *firſt* Addreſs to Mr. Bowden.

All theſe Matters being duly weighed, there can be no Impropriety in requeſting my Brother Governors to record, in their Minute Book, my original Tender to St. Bartholomew's, (a Copy of which accompany's the preſent) with my Letter to Mr. Darker of the 30th January laſt, and alſo my Letter to Mr. Bowden of the 2d ultimo, as far as the Words, " conveys them to me." The Letter of Mr. Thomas Wall I think you may

retain in your own Hands, for the Entertainment of ſuch of your Friends, as may be fond of Decyphering.

The above Requeſt I therefore make to my Brother Governors, and the rather, that I may give them an Opportunity of recompenſing me, for the indecent Treatment I have encountered from our Treaſurer: for whether they ſhall regiſter, or not, the Royal Society will not be able to *undiſcover*, that our Earth makes a reverſe Annual Rotation, and therefore their continued Silence will only make them the more ridiculous in the Eyes of the Diſcerning; but ſurely at all Events it ought to appear to Poſterity, that (upon my making *ſo important* a Diſcovery, and preſenting at the ſame Time *ſo ample* an Offering) ſome few Well-Wiſhers to me were to befound amongſt the Governors of St. Thomas's Hoſpital!

In Regard to your Enquiry, whether I deſired an Impoſſibility to be complied with by the Royal Society, in my Tender to St. Bartholomew's, I anſwer, that ſuch were my real Sentiments, as will be fully evinced by the Tenor of ſaid Tender, a Copy of which is ſent you herewith; and if ſuch had not been my firm Belief, your Hoſpital would never have been put in Poſſeſſion of the two Houſes in Leadenhall-Street, No. 36 and 37.

The

The Acknowledgment of my Diſcovery, by the Royal Society, was not wanted by Way of Alternative; becauſe as they could not get the £.2000 for St. Bartholomew's, that *negative* Proof becomes equally valid with Proof *poſitive:* and therefore my brother Merchants ſhould applaud my Ingenuity for having baffled their [the Royal Society's] Silence, and forced their *Lines* (although intrenched *Chin-deep*) by *a Manœuvre* hitherto unpracticed.

I did not mean to aſk for a Liſt of your Grand Committee, but of the Committee that meets our Treaſurer once in every Week, to aid him in making the neceſſary Purchaſes of Proviſions, &c.

I requeſt finally, that I may be able in none of your future Letters to diſcover any Thing *inimical* to me, but that you will become the *ſteady* Friend of,

Richmond, March 3, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

Here follows a Copy of the feigned Minute ſent with the above Letter, in Order to make my Requeſt the better underſtood by the Grand Committee.

Grand Committee, St. Thomas's Hoſpital, the 1775.

Mr. William Gardiner, of Richmond, (one of the Governors of this Hoſpital) having re-

preſented to this Committee by Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq. that he has by extraordinary Diligences eſtabliſhed the Propriety of the *Motto*, accompanying his late Donation of two Freehold Houſes, in Leadenhall-Street, to this Charity, viz. by the Tender of Two Thouſand Pounds to the Governors of Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital on certain Conditions; and therefore his earneſt Requeſt is, that this Committee will be pleaſed to regiſter Copies of two Letters he has addreſſed to the Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's, the one dated the 16th May, 1774, and the other dated the 30th January, 1775, and alſo a Copy of Part of a Letter he has addreſſed to the Treaſurer of this Hoſpital, dated the 2nd February, 1775; in Order that ſucceeding Generations may be truly informed of this extraordinary Anecdote.

Reſolved,

That the two Copies of Letters above deſcribed, and alſo the Part of a Letter addreſſed to Mr. Treaſurer, be tranſcribed here underneath, and that Mr. Polhill be requeſted to inform Mr. Gardiner, that the Record has been made agreeably to his Deſire.

No. 27. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Esq.*

SIR,

ON perusing the Copy of the Letter I addressed to you on the 3d Instant, I discovered a capital Error in the fourth Paragraph. I have there wrote *disonerated*, instead of *exonerated*. In the Original you will doubtless find the same Mistake, so pray be pleased to make the needful Correction, and you will much oblige me.

But as Necessity has compelled me to avail myself of an Appendix, I shall add therein some Intelligence, which I omitted on the 3d Instant, because I had filled my Sheet before I had exhausted my Matter.

Know then!—That these mighty Heroes of Crane-Court begin to squeak; for they have shut the Press against me. Mr. John Wilkie has refused to take in my third Dissertation, on a curious Astronomical Phænomenon, by sullen Silence, in Order to gain the more Time for my Adversaries; and I have since tendered the Dissertation to another Printer *on Pay*, who in like Manner has held me in Suspense, and at last has obliged me to send a Messenger for the Denial,

Since therefore I am become the *Terror* of my Opponents, you will not ſurely remind me again of their *deep* Intrenchments!

However, although I have ſufficiently humiliated my *potent* Enemies, yet I cannot proclaim a Victory with the deſired Eclat, on Account of my *feeble* Friends.—If your Treaſurer had not deſerted me, my Intent was to have celebrated the enſuing 9th of April with great Solemnity, and a ſplendid Treat, to the no ſmall Joy and Satisfaction of your Borough Neighbours; and the like Feſtivity would have been repeated on every ſucceeding 9th of April, during my Exiſtence on this rotary Globe.

But that I may not divert your Attention from the two very intereſting Letters I have already addreſſed to you, I ſhall here cloſe my Appendix with freſh Aſſurances that I am,

Sir, &c.

Richmond,
March 5, 1775.

W. G.

To

No. 28. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq.*

SIR,

MY two Letters, of the 3d and 5th Inſtant, I fear have not pleaſed you, and that in Conſequence you are at a Loſs how to anſwer them. To relieve you from that Embarraſſment is the Purpoſe of my preſent Addreſs.

If you ſhould continue on the Reſerve, I muſt appeal, and this will induce a more diffuſive Publication of the *faux pas* committed by your Colleague of Maiden-Lane.*

Say, therefore, that you applaud my Candour and Ingenuity, and that my Propoſal is ſo reaſonable, as to have encountered the ready Approbation of your Brother Governors, who are ever willing to animate Perſons of my giving Diſpoſition to ſimilar Acts of Generoſity, and more eſpecially while they are living!

To render this Counſel the more palatable, pleaſe to obſerve that I cannot poſſibly be angry with you: for your preſent Conduct clearly evinces, that although unſkilled in Science, yet you firmly believe the Truth of my Terreſtrial

* William Bowden, Eſq. and Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq. are both Directors of the Union Fire-Office, which is ſituated in Maiden-Lane, Cheapſide. The firſt is likewiſe a Bank Director, ſo, like the *Clergy*, he thrives by *Pluralities*.

Diſcovery

Diſcovery. If it was otherwiſe, you would not demur a Moment about recording my three Letters, as their Incompetency would then expoſe me to the Deriſion of my Crane-Court Adverſaries; nor can I be diſpleaſed at your wiſhing me to be in the wrong: becauſe that *Wiſh* indicates the Diſcovery to be of ſome *Magnitude*, and ſo *it* becomes flattering to my Vanity.

In my firſt Letter I told you, "that the Anecdote of the *Hecatomb*, offered up by me at the *Shrine* of your Hoſpital, would occupy a Page in the future Hiſtory of Science:"—but as you have determined to die hard, I muſt requeſt leave to mend the Bill, by aſſuring you, that it cannot poſſibly be now compriſed in leſs than *two* Pages.

The Aſtronomer Royal has been lately preſented with an exceeding good Lecture, in Regard to the accumulated Sin and Iniquity he has given Birth to, and I have ſent him a Copy of the Attorney's Letter for one of the Vouchers.

I well know that upon reading this Letter you will be all Amazement, and therefore that your Mind may not be kept too long upon the Stretch, permit me to advert, that a demonſtrated Truth will not yield to the Book of Numbers, like a Point in Politics, or an

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Arrangement in Trade; and conſequently by reinforcing my Adverſaries, you will only add to my Laurels.

This, with the Tender of my beſt Salutes, concludes me,

Richmond, March 19, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 29. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

I Confeſs myſelf guilty of Neglect in not anſwering your Letters of 3d and 5th Inſtant, but muſt take the Liberty to diſavow the Inferences you draw from thence, as the Reaſons of my Silence. I neither believe nor deny the Truth of your Diſcovery, nor have I a Wiſh one Way or other concerning it, further than as a Friend to Mankind I ſhould be glad to do all in my Power to promote the Intereſt of Society in general, and if a Knowledge of the Diſcovery you have made will increaſe the Conveniences, the Comforts, or Happineſs of the Publick, you have my hearty good Wiſhes, and the Offer of my beſt Services to promote ſo laudable a Deſign.

As a Teſtimony of my Gratitude for your Donation to Saint Thomas's Hoſpital, which I am

am now to underſtand was intended as a Sacrifice of Thankſgiving, &c. I will when our Committee next meet lay before them your Requeſt, and the Subſtance of our Correſpondence, and uſe my beſt Endeavours to get the ſeveral Papers regiſtered as an Explanation of the Motto, and a Commemoration of your Motive, in the Manner you deſire, but will not be anſwerable for the Succeſs. The *Quantum* of the Gift, not the *Motive*, is the Object with them; and if you ſhould ever have Occaſion to make a Sin Offering 'twill be equally acceptable.

I am ignorant of the Diſpute between you and Mr. Bowden, and know not what Cauſe he has given for your Complaints, having never ſeen any of your Letters to him, except the firſt, and not one of his Anſwers (and wiſh to remain ſo) as I have no Inclination to engage in his Quarrels, but from my intimate Knowledge of that Gentleman I think it contrary to his Nature wilfully to offend any Man, and therefore ſuppoſe his Conduct muſt have been miſunderſtood.

Now, Sir, permit me to congratulate you on the Victory you have gained over the Heroes of Crane-Court, of Oxford, of Cambridge, &c. &c.—Theſe are mighty Men in Science, and fit Objects for your Proweſs!—Go on conquering,

and

and to conquer!—and may Succeſs attend you, ſo long as your Fury is directed aright!—But it looks too much like *Quixotiſm* to attack Governors of Hoſpitals, and ſuch as declare they have no Knowledge of Aſtronomy, and not the leaſt Thought of oppoſing, nay, are unable to defend themſelves. One would almoſt ſuſpect, from ſuch Conduct, you did hope to eſtabliſh a demonſtrated Truth *by the Book of Numbers.* True Valour and Humanity are always united: if a Commander had conquered the Champions, and ſuch as appeared in Arms to oppoſe him, 'twould not add to his Laurels—to murder the Women and Children.

We have no ſuch Houſe Committee as you mention, all Kinds of Proviſion, &c. are purchaſed by the Steward.

Southwark, March 23, 1775. I am Sir, &c.
Signed Nathaniel Polhill.

No. 30. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq.*

SIR,

YOUR droll Letter of the 23d Inſtant I duly received, in which you are pleaſed to certify, that what I ſuggeſted in my laſt was quite agreeable to Truth, viz. that you were at

at a Loſs how to anſwer to my two preceeding Letters of the 3d and the 5th Inſtant.

Your *Exordium* is ſuper-excellent.—You ſay, —" that you neither believe nor deny the Truth of my Diſcovery, nor have you *a Wiſh* one Way or other concerning it, further than as a Friend to Mankind, &c.

I think that I need not protract the Quotation to prove that you give little Attention to what is wrote to you,—or to what you write yourſelf.

In my Letter of the 3d Inſtant, then before you, are theſe Words,—" but ſurely at all Events it ought to appear to Poſterity, that (upon my making *ſo important* a Diſcovery, and preſenting at the ſame Time *ſo ample* an Offering) ſome few Well-Wiſhers to me were to be found amongſt the Governors of St. Thomas's Hoſpital."

But you ſtill go blundering on, and propoſe to act inimically to me, as a Token of your Gratitude. Firſt, you diſavow an earlier Knowledge of my Donation to be intended as a Sacrifice of Thankſgiving.—Strange indeed! that not a ſingle Governor, on the 13th July laſt, ſhould have been able to render the Words *favente Deo* into Engliſh! Secondly, you propoſe to communicate only the Subſtance of

our

our Correſpondence, inſtead of producing all my Letters to the Grand-Committee. And laſtly, you ſay the *Quantum* of the Gift is to determine its *Merit* with the Governors, and not the *Motive*; and yet at the ſame Time you declare yourſelf doubtful of the Succeſs of my Petition. Is then £104 *per Annum* in Freehold Premiſes a *trifling* Donation?—Or were the Governors (who conſtituted the Grand-Committee on the 13th July laſt) in Jeſt, when they declared it to be a *munificent* Donation? [See a Copy of the Minute at the Foot of this Letter.]

However be pleaſed to obſerve that I ſhall not truſt to your Report: for I mean to be my own Advocate, and will, under that Character, communicate the whole Correſpondence between us to the Grand-Committee; and then it will be clearly evinced which of us is the *Don Quixote*.

In your next Paragraph you plead Ignorance of the Treaſurer's Dereliction, although it was fully explained to you in my very firſt Letter, and your Knowledge of him cannot revoke the Offence he has committed againſt Decency and Good-Manners. However I have no Quarrel with him, but I pray for his Repentance, and I think

think you may join me heartily therein, without ſuffering any Reproach in Point of Prudence.

I am now come to your aukward Attempt at Humour, which ever loſes its Edge, when the Truth of Facts is not duly attended to.

From what *Data* then will you prove, that I have attacked the defenceleſs Hoſpital Governors, whilſt I have been acting the Part of an humble Petitioner to them?

Again. How could you ſuppoſe that I had not attacked the Heroes of Crane-Court, and of the two Univerſities, when it is notorious that I have made them ſore all over?—And did I not tell you in my very laſt Letter, that I had juſt then given the Rev. Nevil Maſkelyne a freſh Lecture, accompanied with Vouchers?—Any Philomath of the Royal Society can inform you, that I have given four Publications, under my Name, againſt the received Tenets of the moſt able Profeſſors in Great Britain, and a Fifth [my third Diſcovery] you yourſelf have been told would have appeared ſome Time ago, if Wilkie would have taken it in.

That my Adverſaries are unequal to the Conflict is paſt a Doubt;—they cannot win the £.2000, and from this Fact you have diſcovered me to be in the right, without the Aid of much Skill in Science; and therefore you are anxious

to

to conceal this Fact, although in the Attempt you are relinquiſhing all Pretenſions to Delicacy of Sentiment, and [wonderful to tell!] even after having commenced *a Patriot*.

The Book of Numbers was alluded to by me with Propriety, becauſe my Adverſaries of Crane-Court had pretended to outvote Demonſtration; but by your Retort there ariſes no Humour at all. I have publiſhed, under Name, various Proofs of my new Doctrine, and have alſo corroborated thoſe Proofs experimentally by various Machines, which the Philomaths of Crane-Court are afraid to inſpect, becauſe conſcious of their co-ercive Powers.

I believe you will now begin to diſcover that you do not ſhine much as a Diſputant, and that it would have been rather more prudent for you to have taken my *friendly* Counſel, than to have mounted the *Roſtrum*; but if you had been my Superior in Declamation, ſtill you ſhould not have entered the Liſts againſt me: becauſe nothing can be more abſurd, than for any Governors of St. Thomas's to act inimically to me on the preſent Occaſion, unleſs ſuch of them as are enrolled at Crane-Court, and therefore the two Letters you have addreſſed to me, will be perpetual Teſtimonials that you have erred in your Deſign, as well as bungled in the Execution of it.

If your Letter now before me has any Merit, it muſt ariſe from its being all of a Piece, and the very Concluſion, which I have now attained to, is equally equivocal with all that precedes it.—You ſay, that there is no Houſe-Committee at St. Thomas's, that aſſiſts in making Contracts for Proviſions: but will you ſay that there is no Houſe Committee? See my Firſt Letter!—Will you ſay there is no Houſe-Committee that ſits with the Treaſurer once in every Week?—See my ſecond Letter!—

But notwithſtanding all theſe Attempts to ruffle me, I ſhall ſtill continue of a placid Diſpoſition, and, as a Teſtimonial thereof, I will now give you ſome further friendly Counſel.

Take Care *in Futuro* never to Anſwer a Letter inimically, unleſs you can anſwer to its whole Contents, and ſtraight forward. In both your Letters, addreſſed to me, you have dropped very freely, as Lawyers are wont to do, and amongſt other Things you have omitted to ſpeak to the 9th of April, for which Day I am keeping *a ſharp Look-out*; and you have even omitted to declare, whether you corrected the Miſtake I had made in the Word *exonerated*.

To this good Counſel, I ſhall add ſome Crumbs of Comfort.—Reſt aſſured that if the Aſtronomer-Royal had ever attacked me, he

would

would not have ſucceeded better than you have done. This he well knows, and this is the true Reaſon why he will not write me, although he has received fourteen Lectures from me, ſome of which may be ſeen in the London Chronicles of the 9th, and of the 12th October, 1773, and of the 1ſt January, 1774.

I am ſorry to have been ſo prolix, but as you have ſhunned anſwering in Point, the more Argument is required for your Refutation; and ſo truſting to this Plea for your Pardon, I conclude myſelf,

Richmond, March 27, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

The Minute to which the above Letter refers.

Grand Committee, St. Thomas's Hoſpital, 13th July, 1774.

Mr. Treaſurer having informed this Committee, that William Gardiner, of Richmond, in the County of Surry, Eſq. (one of the Governors of this Hoſpital) had moſt generouſly, and in a very ample and complete Manner, conveyed two Freehold Houſes, ſituate in Leadenhall-Street, for the Uſe and Benefit of this Charity:

Reſolved,

That the Thanks of this Court be given to William Gardiner, Eſq. for the great Regard he has ſhewn to this Hoſpital by conferring ſo *munificent* a Donation, and that the ſame ſhall

be recorded, and his Motto of *Favente Deo, Metam contigi*, placed according to his Order, and that Mr. Treaſurer be deſired to wait on him with this Reſolution.

The above is a true Copy of an Extract from the Minute Book of the Grand-Committee of Saint Thomas's Hoſpital, as Witneſs my Hand,

Signed Joſeph Cruttenden, Clerk.

No. 31. *To Samuel Plumbe, Eſq. Foſter-Lane.*

SIR,

AS Preſident of St. Thomas's Hoſpital, I muſt preſume that you are duly informed of my having conveyed, on the 9th of April laſt, two Freehold Houſes in Leadenhall-Street, let at £104 *per Annum*, to the Governors and Guardians of the ſaid Hoſpital, deſiring this Gift to be recorded under the Motto, *Favente Deo, Metam contigi*.

In this Tranſaction I have had no Intercourſe with any other Governors than Mr. Treaſurer, and Mr. Nathaniel Polhill, both of whom have behaved ungenteelly to me, and in a Style quite unbecoming the Adminiſtrators of a public Charity.

I ſhall not trouble you with a long Detail, becauſe the Affair may be made quite intelligible

ble to you, by Letters I have already addreſſed to the reſpective Parties, and alſo to John Darker, Eſq. the Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's.

Here followed a Liſt of the Letters and Papers neceſſary to be called for, and which are herein contained.

When you ſhall have peruſed all theſe Letters and Papers, you will doubtleſs agree with me, that ſomething ought to be done in Conſequence of my Requeſt: becauſe the entering my three Letters upon Record in your Minute Book, cannot poſſibly hurt the Charity, and, by omitting ſo to do, Poſterity will incline to believe, that my cotemporary Governors of St. Thomas's were angry with me, for contributing ſo largely to their Entertainment.

I ſhall readily give you freſh Copies of the Papers above enumerated, if upon Requeſt to the Poſſeſſors of them, they ſhould not be produced; or if you ſhould incline for an extenſive Diſtribution of them amongſt our Brother Governors, in ſuch Caſe I will order an Impreſſion of them.

This, with the Tender of my beſt Salutes, is what offers to communicate from,

Richmond, March 28, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 32. *To Samuel Plumbe, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Saluted you with a few Lines on the 28th ultimo, ſince which I have publiſhed a freſh Aſtronomical Diſſertation. — I have therefore thought it my Duty to ſend you a Copy of it, that you may be perfectly well apprized of the little Hopes remaining to my Adverſaries of ſuffocating my Diſcoveries, which are now *three* in Number.

All poſſible Satisfaction ſhall be further given to you in Regard to my Requeſt or my Complaint, as you ſhall pleaſe to require: but I think that the Papers, already referred to, will be found competent.

I kiſs your Hands, and beg leave to ſubſcribe myſelf anew,

Richmond, April 3, 1775. } Sir, &c.

W. G.

No. 33. *To Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq.*

SIR,

IN your Letter of the 23d ultimo, (to which I replied on the 27th ditto) you bid me exert my Proweſs, in giving a ſecond Defeat to the Heroes

Heroes of Crane-Court, of Oxford, of Cambridge, &c. &c.—*I have done it!**—and incloſed goes the Voucher.† I am, Sir,

Richmond, April 4, 1775. } Your humble Servant, W. G.

* Sir Geo. Walton, in the Mediterranean, 1718.

† My Diſſertation on Solar and Sidereal Days.

No. 34. *To Samuel Plumbe, Eſq.*

SIR,

I Have wrote you two Letters, one dated the 28th ultimo, and the other the 3d Inſtant; but to neither of them have I hitherto received any Reply.

The preſent is meant to notify to you, that a Year is fully elapſed ſince I conveyed the two Houſes in Leadenhall-Street, No. 36 and 37, to the Governors and Guardians of St. Thomas's Hoſpital, and conſequently the cautionary Conveyance of them to Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq. Joſeph Naſh, Eſq. and Mr. George Brough, is now become *a dead Letter*. I therefore congratulate you on this Event, not doubting but that the Security of not having any further Trouble, in Regard to a ſecond Conveyance of theſe two Houſes, will be pleaſing to you.

By your Demur in anſwering to my two Letters above quoted, I begin to ſuſpect that you do

not reliſh my making of Complaints: but then ſurely you ought immediately to have thanked me, for ſending you a Copy of my fifth Aſtronomical Diſſertation, which is certainly of more intrinſic Value, than a *whole* Volume of *Tranſactions*, and evinces that the Crane-Court Heroes *have loſt the Day hollow*.

But to give you a further Specimen of my great Candour, and to haſten Matters to a laudable Concluſion, I ſhall now produce an Extract out of a Letter, I have lately received from a learned Correſpondent in Lancaſhire, to whom I had given Information of the inimical Letters, wrote to me by Mr. Polhill and Mr. Treaſurer.

After paying me a Compliment not proper for me to relate, he ſays thus,—" and I therefore much wonder how the Gentlemen you mention, can either be inimical, or unthankful, for ſo *noble* a Benefaction to a Charity, in which they have a fiduciary Truſt. I have, it is true, often remarked, and as often lamented, that Gentlemen will do ſuch Things in a collective Capacity, as they would bluſh at, nay be *abſolutely* aſhamed of, in a private Capacity.—If I ſhould not fear being guilty of great Impertinence, I ſhould be glad to know, how your very important Diſcovery could give *any* Offence to

Gentlemen

Gentlemen who have taken upon them that public Truſt, and who have experienced your *uncommon* Liberality to that charitable Inſtitution. — Can Envy occaſion ſuch ungrateful Treatment?—Its malignant Influence I know is great, and its Nature is *ſtrongly* and *truly* painted by the great Roman Critic, who ſays of it, that it is—*Vitium eorum, qui nec cedere volunt, nec poſſunt contendere.*"

I am apt to believe that my ingenious Correſpondent has hit the Mark: ſo unleſs you ſhall be pleaſed, in a ſhort Time, to aſſign a better Reaſon for the abſurd Tenor of Mr. Polhill's two Letters, I muſt pay my Friend the Compliment due to his ready Penetration.

But perhaps you will rather incline to continue ſilent, in Expectation of making me angry. If ſuch ſhould be the Caſe, then permit me to remark, that ſince the Almighty has ordained that my Name ſhall live as long as the Earth and the Moon ſhall endure; ſo I cannot poſſibly relinquiſh my pleaſing Senſations to gratify your Humour: however, as *a Man*, I muſt *ever* lament the tumbling down *any more* of my Brother Governors, in *ſo* unworthy a Cauſe.

Theſe Things are recommended to your ſerious Attention, by,

Sir, &c.

P. S. Pray

P. S. Pray acquaint Mr. Polhill, that I have been all Compliance in Regard to his Orders: for I have not only given his *Heroes* public Correction a ſecond Time, but each Profeſſor has been furniſhed ſeparately with a private Reproof, which will cauſe the Wounds, before given them, to bleed afreſh; and you may add that the famous Doctor Hallifax is one of the Number. This Doctor Hallifax is a perpetual Member of the *Caput* at Cambridge, and is now preaching the Biſhop of Glouceſter's Lecture on Prophecy, at Lincoln's Inn.—He has alſo made himſelf conſpicuous by three *Philippics* delivered at Cambridge, in Defence of Subſcription to the Thirty-Nine Articles, and in Oppoſition to Doctor Prieſtly and others,

Richmond, April 10, 1775.

No. 35. *To William Gardiner,*

SIR,

I Have peruſed your Favor of 27th March with Attention, but am at Loſs to diſcover whether your Correſpondence is Jeſt or Earneſt, but am inclined to think it is intended as a Mixture of both, and in this Suppoſition I am warranted

ranted by many Paſſages in your Letters to me.

The Reaſon of our differing in Sentiments on this Occaſion, is your determined Reſolution to unite, what is now called the *Motive* with the *Gift*, which I, for prudential Reaſons, am derous of ſeparating, the *latter* deſerves every Teſtimony of Gratitude the Governors of St. Thomas's can poſſibly beſtow, but the *Motive* not being originally mentioned has certainly nothing meritorious to recommend it to the Committee in their Capacity of Truſtees to the Eſtates of that Charity, and although many of the Governors on the 13th July might have been able to tranſlate the Words *Favente Deo*, &c. would they not, at leaſt at that Time, have borne this Conſtruction,—that God had put it into your Heart, to make the munificent Donation there recorded, in your Life Time, and that ſuch Inclination and Ability, to alleviate the Afflictions of the Indigent and Diſeaſed; was the Summit of your Wiſhes, the moſt diſtant Alluſion to any other Motive than Charity, will hand down your Name to Poſterity under the odious Implication of vain glorious Oſtentation, be adviſed, reſt it there, and do not detract from your Merit as a Benefactor by puſling the Governors with Aſtronomical Problems, we

are

are thankful for the Gift, Crane-Court ought to render you all due Acknowledgments for the Diſcovery, and this Diſtinction properly attended to, may plead in Excuſe for our Treaſurer's ſuppoſed Miſconduct.

I have no Pretenſions to Humour, but profeſs a Regard to Truth, and therefore ſhall remark on that Part of your Letter which implies the contrary.—You aſk from what Data I will prove that you have attacked the defenceleſs Hoſpital Governors, I anſwer from your Letter of 21ſt February where are theſe Words,—"the Great Creator gave me Power to eſtabliſh this wonderful Truth againſt the united Reſiſtance of 400 Fellows of Crane-Court, and 300 Governors of St. Bartholomew's, *plus* the Treaſurer of St. Thomas's,"—and for a further Proof of this Fact I refer to ſeveral Paragraphs in your Letter of 19th March, nor can I conceive by what Conſtruction of Language my Expreſſion "permit me to congratulate you on the Victory you have gained over the Heroes of Crane-Court," can be underſtood as a Suppoſition that you had never attacked them.

I believe you will retract the Expreſſion, *Equivocal*, as applied to my Anſwer about the Houſe-Committee, when I refer to the Words of your Queſtion in Letter dated 3d March, where

where you desire " a List of the Committee that meets our Treasurer once in every Week, to aid him in making the necessary Purchases of Provisions, &c."—and allow my Answer to have been direct, there is what we call the taking-in Committee, who attend the Admission of Patients every Thursday, but have nothing to do with providing for the House.

But is it possible my Letter should have any Merit, and is Consistency the Criterion, I am unwilling to bring your Epistles to that Standard, for with all the Mixture of Jest and Earnest, of Argument and Humour, of real and *pretended* Discoverys, of Pretensions to a placid Disposition, and a Determination not to be pleased, Blustering and Humility, of Candour and Disingenuity,—notwithstanding all these Inconsistency's, there is that good Sense and Originality, which renders your Correspondence agreeable, Entertaining, and Instructive, and I am still willing to hope, that the *Ishmaelitish* Part of your Character is not real but assumed, and in that Persuasion am determined, tho' your Hand is against every Man, mine shall never be against you.

I have corrected the Mistake in the Word exonerated, and as the 9th of April is now past, 'tis not necessary to say any Thing on that Subject,

ject, but I am very glad to be discharged from the Task of reporting our Correspondence to the Grand-Committee, how our President will acquit himself in that Undertaking I know not, but such Part of it as I can furnish shall not be wanting if apply'd for.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept my Thanks for the Copy of your Astronomical Dissertation, and permit me to express my Satisfaction that your Hostility's are again directed to Crane-Court, and when you are disposed to honour Saint Thomas's with a Visit, lay aside your offensive Weapons, hold out the right Hand of Fellowship, and no Man will meet a more Cordial Reception.

Southwark, 15th April, 1775. } I am, Sir, &c.
Signed Nathaniel Polhill.

No. 36. *To Samuel Plumbe, Esq;*

SIR,

MY last last was of the 10th Instant, and since I have received a Third silly Letter from Mr. Polhill, so I suspect that you have not yet explained to him the Absurdity of his writing to me inimical Letters, nor told him how much I have done, with a View of gaining him over to my Interest.

In

In my Letter above quoted, I remarked to you, that I had lived to eſtabliſh the Validity of my own Conveyance, of the Two Houſes in Leadenhall-Street, to the Hoſpital where you preſide, and conſequently Mr. Polhill will never be called upon to make a Second Conveyance of them. Therefore I ſhall only conſider him henceforward, as One of the 460 Governors of Saint Thomas's, and correſpond no more with him.

But, leſt he ſhould imagine that this my Determination is the Reſult of his argumentative Powers, I ſhall diſſect his laſt Letter, and the rather, as I hope my Diligences therein will contribute to the Amuſement of your Goodſelf, and of your Brother Aldermen.

Be pleaſed then to obſerve, that this arch *Sophiſter* ever takes Care to drop what is difficult to be combated, and falls to thruſting much Matter into a ſingle Paragraph, omitting at the ſame Time to preſerve any Connexion.

The Second Paragraph, in his Letter now before me, is of this Complexion, and therefore I have anſwered to it on a ſeparate Sheet by Way of Contraſt, in Order that you may the better diſcern that he is fairly refuted, even where he deems his Argument impregnable, and this being done on a detached Sheet, you will

will have an Opportunity of ſhewing it to your Friends, without giving them a Sight of my whole Letter, if ſuch ſhould be your Inclination.

Here follows a Copy of the detached Sheet.

Nathaniel Polhill, Eſq. ſays thus:

THE Reaſon of our differing in Sentiments on this Occaſion, is your determined Reſolution to unite what is now called the *Motive* with the *Gift*, which I, for prudential* Reaſons, am deſirous of ſeparating. The *latter* demands every Teſtimony of Gratitude the Governors of St. Thomas's can poſſibly beſtow: but the *Motive* not being originally mentioned has certainly nothing meritorious to recommend it to the Committee in their Capacity of Truſtees to the Eſtates of that Charity, and although many of the Governors on the 13th July might have been able to tranſlate the Words *Favente Deo*, &c. would they not (at leaſt at that Time) have borne this Conſtruction?—that God had put it into your Heart, to make the munificent Donation there recorded,

The Contraſt.

MR. Gardiner relinquiſhes all Pretenſions to unite the *Motive* with the *Gift*: but if the *Gift* deſerves any Teſtimony of Gratitude from the Governors, then it follows that they ought eagerly to aſſiſt Mr. G. in making, his *Motive* patent, and more eſpecially when requeſted by Mr. G. ſo to do.—The *Motive* was not mentioned by Mr. G. on the firſt Tender of the Gift, and for the very Reaſon aſſigned per Contra, *viz.* becauſe Mr. G. well knew that his *Motive* could have no Plea of *Merit* with the Governors: but Mr. G. in Order to aſcertain the true *Motive* of his Offering, requeſted it might be recorded with a *Motto*, and to this Requeſt the Governors acceeded.—It next follows to conſider how the *Motto* ſhould be interpreted. The Words will not

* When theſe *prudential* Reaſons for acting abſurdly ſhall tranſpire, Mr. G. will *meaſure* and *value* them.

recorded, in your Life Time, and that ſuch Inclination and Ability, to alleviate the Afflictions of the Indigent and Diſeaſed was the Summit of your Wiſhes. The moſt diſtant Alluſion to any other Motive than Charity, will hand down your Name to Poſterity, under the odious Implication of vain glorious Oſtentation. Be adviſed, reſt it there, and do not detract from your Merit as a Benefactor, by puzzling the Governors with Aſtronomical Problems. We are thankful for the Gift, Crane-Court ought to render you all due Acknowledgments for the Diſcovery: and this Diſtinction properly attended to, may plead in Excuſe for our Treaſurer's ſuppoſed Miſconduct.

not admit of the Conſtruction given by Mr. Polhill. They evidently declare a *Favour* received at the Hands of the Almighty, and an *End* obtained;--and who can pretend to aſcertain that *End* with greater preciſion, than the *Devotee* who has made the *Oblation?* Mr. G. freely declared the *Motive* to all his near Friends, and diſtant Coreſpondents, immediately on making the *Oblation*, and one of theſe Correſpondents made the following Reply.—After paſſing a Compliment on the Diſcovery, he adds,—"but my Delight is greatly heightened by that humble and proper Acknowledgment you make to the ſame Almighty, as well as benign Being, who alone can enlighten our Underſtandings,—for making you the happy Agent for communicating ſuch Knowledge to the World."

Here it is evident that Doctors differ widely in Opinion. Mr. Polhill ſays, that the Action will induce the odious Implication of *vain-glorious* Oſtentation; while the more learned Clerk declares, that it is an *humble* and *proper* Acknowledgment made by Mr. G. to the Almighty.

Laſtly, Mr. G. ſubmits it to the Vote of the Peruſers of this Contraſt, whether Mr. Polhill, after ſo flagrant an Abuſe of Language, can be deemed compe-

tent for giving Advice? — For hath not the Scripture long ago declared—" He that *hath Pity* upon the *Poor*, *lendeth* unto the *Lord?*"

When Mr. Polhill ſhall be able to point out, how Mr. G. could have offered up a *Hecatomb*, in this Country, by a cloſer *Analogy*, Mr. G. will permit him to be his *Adviſer*,—but not before!

In the next Paragraph, Mr. Polhill diſavows all Pretenſions to Humour, but pray attend to his Language in a Letter he wrote me on the 23d ultimo, No. 29, where he ſays,—" True Valour and Humanity are always united. If a Commander had conquered the *Champions*, and ſuch as appeared in Arms to oppoſe him, it would not add to his *Laurels* to murder the *Women* and *Children*." [Meaning the Governors of Hoſpitals]

To this I have anſwered, that I do attack the *Champions*, and that I am only an *humble* Petitioner to my Brethren of St. Thomas's, with a View to invite them to become my hearty Well-Wiſhers, but not my fighting Allies.—True! ſays Mr. Polhill,—but then you have *attacked* the Bartholomeans, and *mauled* them confoundedly: for in your Letter of the 21ſt February (No. 24) you ſay,—" the Great Cre-

" ator

" ator gave you Power to eſtabliſh this wonder-
" ful Truth, againſt the united Reſiſtance of
" 400 Fellows of Crane-Court, and 300 Go-
" Governors of St. Bartholomew's, *plus* the
" Treaſurer of St. Thomas's."

But pray, in the Name of Common-Senſe, how do theſe Words imply an *Attack* on my Part? I tendered them £.2000 on Terms, that all my Adverſaries in Science declared might be complied with.—How did the Bartholomeans behave on this Tender?—Why they endeavoured to wheedle me out of the £.2000, without producing the neceſſary Certificate, and by this Means to deprive me of one ſure Teſt of my Victory over the Heroes of Crane-Court.—Thus the Bartholomeans *attacked* me diſhonourably in Favour of Crane-Court, and therefore I declared them to have joined *in Reſiſtance*, and *in Vain*, becauſe the £.2000 has not yet been won; nor has any Philomath whatever invalidated what the Almighty has enabled me to prove by Diagram, or Experiment: But none of theſe Powers have been exerted by me againſt *the Bartholomeans*, although they have been exerciſed with great Freedom againſt *the Heroes* of Crane-Court.

This being the real Truth,—what becomes of the *fine* Stroke of Humour in Mr. Polhill's Letter of the 23d ultimo (No. 29) wherein he

ſays,—" but it looks too much like *Quixotiſm* " to *attack* Governors of Hoſpitals, and ſuch as " declare they have no Knowledge of Aſtro- " nomy, and not the leaſt Thought of *oppoſing*, " nay, are unable to defend themſelves."

In the Concluſion of this Paragraph I am now diſſecting, my Borough Friend makes a *ſcanty* Quotation from this ſame Letter of the 23d ultimo, where, *in Drollery*, he congratulates me on the Victory I had gained over *the Heroes* of Crane-Court.—By his ſtopping ſhort, in the Extract, at the Words *Crane-Court*, the whole Beauty of this Period is loſt. In the Original he adds—*go on conquering!*—and this Exclamation clearly indicates, that at that Criſis he thought I had not chaſtiſed *the Heroes* enough, and now that, in Compliance to his Pleaſure, I have given *them* a freſh *Drubbing*, my Borough Friend continues to write inimically to me.—Oh fie!—Oh fie!—Oh fie!—Is not this *oppoſing*?—Has not a great Authority declared, —*he that is not with me is againſt me*?

Mr. Polhill in his next Paragraph, by an Attempt to palliate his Equivocation, in Regard to the Houſe-Committee, comes off very lamely indeed! My Requeſt was thus:—" If when " you ſhall write you will be ſo indulging, as to " ſend me a Liſt of the Names of your preſent " Houſe-

"Houſe-Committee at St. Thomas's, you will "much oblige, &c."—The Liſt, ſent me in Conſequence, contained the Names of the Grand-Committee only, and I never yet received a Liſt of the Houſe-Committee.

In the Sequel my Borough Friend roughs and ſmooths me, with a View to lure me on to a further Correſpondence with him: but as an *old Bird*, I am not to be caught with *Chaff*.—He has already more of my Letters before him, than he will ever be able to anſwer, and in my early Youth I imbibed this wholſome Maxim at Liſbon, *viz.*—To be careful not to overload a Man's *Debit*, when it is probable that he will never *balance* the Account.

I ſhall therefore now conclude with exhorting you anew to peruſe all the Papers I have recommended to your Attention, when I flatter myſelf that you will ſet about correcting the Miſtakes of our two fallen Brethren, that our College may not ſuffer Diſgrace, by the Means of my liberal Donation.

That you may be ſteady in this Purſuit, permit me to aſſure you, that no Philomath on the Face of this Globe, as is evinced by the Tender of the £.2000 to St. Bartholomew's, will ever be able to refute the Aſtronomical Publi-

cations,

cations, which have been given under the Firm of,

Sir, Your
Truſty Brother, and very
Humble Servant,
W. G.

Richmond, April 20, 1775.

No. 37. *To William Gardiner.*

SIR,

AS Preſident of St. Thomas's Hoſpital I acknowledge the *Receit* of three Letters received from you, which I have delivered to Mr. Bowden, the *Threaſurer*. As to the Complaint you make relative to St. Thomas's Hoſpital nothing was ever intended by me to offend you. As to the Subject Matter am entirely Ignorant of the whole Affair, therefore can do no otherwiſe than refer you back to Mr. Bowden the *Threaſurer*, and am,

Sir, Your
Moſt obedient Servant,
Signed Samuel Plumbe.

London, April —, 1775.

N. B. This Letter was marked April the 20th on the Outſide, by the Poſt-Office in Lombard-Street.

To

No. 38. *To Samuel Plumbe, Esq.*

SIR,

I Wrote you a long Letter on the 20th Inſtant, by which I was willing to hope that you would have profited much: but I now begin to doubt of its Succeſs, as the very next Morning I received your laconic Letter of the ſame Date. Mr. Polhill imagined he had ſhewn himſelf a Maſter, by taking—a Hop,—a Step—and a Jump,—over my Letters; but you, being more acute, have waved giving any Anſwer at all to my three firſt Letters, and have ſent them to the Treaſurer of St. Thomas's, as if he was your *Secretary of State*, and I am referred to him for an Anſwer, although a Perſon with whom I cannot poſſibly have any further Intercourſe, until he ſhall have declared himſelf in a State of Repentance.

I am all Attention to learn how you have diſpoſed of my fourth Letter.—According to your firſt Principle of Action, it ſhould be ſent to Mr. Polhill: but then I have declared in this very Letter, that I will correſpond no more with him, and therefore it ſhould ſeem, that ſome new *Manœuvre* muſt be adopted.

You ſay,—" that you never intended *to offend me.*"—But pray, how can I conclude that you

you ever intended *to pleaſe me*, when you permitted my Letter, of the 28th Ultimo, to lie by you unnoticed until the 20th Inſtant, and afterwards condemned that Letter, and two more ſucceeding ones, never to be anſwered at all?

Again.—You ſay—" that you could do no otherwiſe than refer me back to Mr. Bowden." —Strange indeed!—Pray what could prevent you from reading the Letters I had enumerated to you?

But perhaps you imagine that by ſtanding aloof, you can ſtop my Appeal.—If you do, you will find yourſelf ſadly miſtaken: for ſince you are pleaſed to deny me a Hearing, I ſhall forthwith appeal to a ſuperior Court, and by this Means—your Goodſelf,—the Borough Member,—and Mr. Treaſurer,—will be ſhewn up as *a Triumvirate* of Dunces, for having treated me inimically, whilſt I was exerciſing the beſt Attribute of the Human Mind, under your own official Inſpections.

In the mean Time, to evince what a generous Opponent you have encountered, I will now frankly declare how you may humiliate me; becauſe I plainly perceive, that this is the Event moſt ardently wiſhed for by your Goodſelf, and Colleagues.—Procure then a Philomath

math to refute my Aſtronomical Publications! ——That will humble me with a Witneſs!— But while you ſhall purſue your *Threadneedle* Schemes, you will only *diſgrace* yourſelves, and add a *Luſtre* to my Fame.

I preſume that you will applaud my preſent Ingenuity, in pointing out to you where I am moſt vulnerable, and accordingly permit me to rank as one of,

Sir!

Your moſt favoured,

But very humble Servants,

W. G.

N. B. By omitting to give the Day of the Month at the Foot of your Letter, you gained no Advantage: becauſe the Day of the Month is marked on the Outſide of all Letters, at the Office in Lombard-Street.— You ſhould have been nimbler in writing: for if you had only ſtarted a Day ſooner, you would have marred the Tenor of my laſt Letter.

Richmond, April the 27th, 1775.

The Concluſion.

HAVING now laid before my Readers the whole of my Correſpondence with the Two Great Hoſpitals, (except as is before excepted) I preſume that they will have hereby diſcovered the Propriety of my Sacrifice, and alſo of the £.2000 Tender to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital: but if any Reader, after having peruſed the foregoing Correſpondence with Attention, ſhould incline to think that I have been rather too tart with my Adverſaries, I muſt entreat him to reflect, that theſe Adverſaries have recurred to ſiniſter Practices, in Order to ſtifle my Aſtronomical Progeny in their early Birth.

If it ſhould be further urged, that I might have contented myſelf with the private Reproofs I had freely diſtributed amongſt theſe elevated Geniuſes, and not have thus cited them to anſwer for their Miſdeeds before the awful Tribunal of the ſcrutinizing Public,—I anſwer, that as my Brethren of Saint Thomas's had refuſed to admit a few of my Letters into their Archives, which were deſigned for the Benefit of Poſterity, (who will doubtleſs rejoice to learn, by what Ways and Means I baffled the united Efforts of my numerous Opponents)

ſo

ſo I was under the Neceſſity of becoming my own Recorder; and I flatter myſelf that this Record will prove of equal Duration with their Archives, and of eaſier Acceſs.

In the mean Time I am willing to hope that even many of my Contemporaries, who may happen to be unconnected with the Royal Society, and with the Governors of the Two Great Hoſpitals, will be well amuſed in the Contemplation of the preſent Literary Correſpondence, as ſome of the Anecdotes herein contained are quite new in *Species*, and communicated with a ſtrict Regard to Truth.

If this ſhould be the Event, I ſhall deem myſelf well recompenced for the Labour I have beſtowed in preparing theſe Sheets for the Preſs, and I ſhall endeavour, at ſome future Day, to gratify ſuch my Favourers with a freſh Treat in the ſame Walk.

Richmond, July the 28th, 1775.

W. Gardiner.

F I N I S.

to I was under the Neceſſity of becoming my own Recorder; and I flatter myſelf that this Record will prove of equal Duration with their Archives, and of eaſier Acceſs.

In the mean Time I am willing to hope that even many of my Contemporaries, who may happen to be unconnected with the Royal Society, and with the Governors of the Two Great Hoſpitals, will be well amuſed in the Contemplation of the preſent Literary Correſpondence, as Dupe of the Anecdotes herein contained are quite new in Species, and communicated with a ſtrict Regard to Truth.

If this ſhould be the Event, I ſhall deem myſelf well recompenced for the Labour I have beſtowed in preparing theſe Sheets for the Preſs, and I ſhall endeavour, at ſome future Day, to gratify ſuch my Favourers with a freſh Treat in the ſame Walk.

Richmond, Yorkſhire, 1775.

W. Gardiner.